
Long Message

I've been watching the various discussions of souls/lack of etc. in here, until Ron decided that he didn't feel like arguing the topic any more. Those of you who read the Skeptics topic may have noticed that I have been arguing for the existence of demons recently; Herewith this message, where I present my side of the argument. Hopefully this longish post will clear a lot of the small questions out of the way in one go, so if anyone wants to argue with it you will have some quotes to work on and attack me with! :-)

First I'm going to present the theory, and then back it up with examples. Acknowledgemnts to Peter Carroll (not @ CIX) for expressing it so succinctly in his new book.

CHAOS MAGIC THEORY

Propositions:-

1. All matter emits energy or "Aether" and this carries/consists of information about the originating matter.
2. This aether is non-local to the emitting matter, and can be instantaneously accessed everywhere.
3. Aether can have a shaping effect on matter which has a similarity with the matter emitting the aether. This effect tends to reinforce the similarity of the behaviours of the matter involved. This is the only way that aether may be perceived; similarly gravity is only detectable when it exerts its influence on another body. These effects give rise to various physical laws and constants. Repetition reinforces the probability of events occurring as time goes by, and eventually a pattern forms.
4. Aether interacts with itself to produce patterns which correspond to potential past and future states. Past and future are indeterminate and therefore only the present moment has any real existence. Schroedinger's cat is the famous example of future indeterminism. It is also a good example of past indeterminism: once we let it out of the box it may be dead or alive, but prior to this it existed in both states. This notion draws on quantum physics. If you do not accept quantum physics on the basis of logical argument etc., I doubt that I will be able to bring you round to this POV.
5. Any material structure can emit aether (point 1) therefore mental events, having structure, can affect other material things (point 3). Thus under the right conditions (ie with sufficient structure and definition) a thought can affect the behaviour of some other matter. Similarly other matter may affect or generate thought if the mind is sufficiently receptive. Hence spells, divination, etc. If you go for an interview, you will succeed if

your projections of aether are sufficiently in tune with the interviewee's. Enchantment works on the same principles, but usually on more difficult things. Bear in mind that you are unlikely to apply for a job where you do not have any affinity with the work being offered.

Now that you have read and agreed with all that [some hope! :-)], I will present some examples drawn from personal experience. I can also think of ones which I have received second-hand, but these will be clearly stated as being such to avoid any possibilities of people muttering "hearsay!".

I'll start with divination, since that is where I had my first experiences. This does not include Tarot etc., because that could be construed in many cases as one's subconscious and muddies the argument. Since the age of about six I have had a facility for precognition: it began with suddenly realising that scene at which one was looking was like a snapshot from a dream I would have had previously. Suddenly I remember where I had "seen" what was in front of me *to the smallest detail*.

By now, it has developed to the point where the memory can cover a period of several seconds, such that I know exactly what someone (or something) will say or do next. This can happen with anything from personal experiences to watching a news broadcast, and I experience it every 1-2 weeks on average.

Some specifics: Being in a tram in Moscow. This was one that I remembered after waking up from the dream, 3 months prior to the event (a school trip). I did not know at the time that I would be in Moscow later, and I couldn't work out what I was doing in a tram on a snowy street while I was having the dream, or indeed after waking up.

Reading a book in my bedroom which had not been published at the time. Again, I couldn't understand where this Dungeons and Dragons book had come from, as it contained rules that I had never heard of and which I would not have expected to be reading in D&D book already available (it was about D&D in the far east, which was anathema to most roleplayers at the time!).

All of these dreams have the qualities of:

- a) Being *entirely* accurate
- b) Their events being unimaginable/unlikely at the time of dreaming
- c) Being fully objective, as if one had suddenly "woken up" into the situation and was able to apply full normal reasoning and logic to the dream events.

Many dreams involve a situation which I *could not* have dredged up from memory, eg a recent one which I remembered while walking through Rochester Cathedral. I was not aware of the existence of Rochester at all until I went through it on a train two weeks later.

I do not see that this conflicts with point (4) above, as:-

- a) Future events only exist as possibilities - who knows how many dreams I have not remembered?
 - b) Dreaming, and any further thought on the dream will reinforce the probability of an event occurring, as suggested in point (5).
- The events described above also lend some weight to point (2).

Next I will proceed to give some examples relevant to point (5), where a material event has taken place with no physical interference of any sort. These can be put down to coincidence, but to do so would mean ignoring probability. Here I apply Occam's razor, though I would point out that it is **not** infallible. William of Occam might have ruled out the existence of atoms in his day!

Naturally I take it that nobody will call my word into doubt on these matters - I hope! :-)

Two recent and particularly striking examples first. I was walking through a small courtyard outside my flat one day when a young man rode in on a scooter. He resembled to an extraordinary degree one of the redneck types that had bullied me in school, and I instantly disliked him. As soon as I had formed the thought, he fell off his scooter. I was pretty surprised - looking at it from my POV it seemed obvious that I had produced the effect.

I didn't rule out coincidence on this one however, until a few weeks later. Walking down the street, I spotted an office postboy that looked rather snooty. So much so, in fact, that I wished he would drop the post he was holding so it would take him down a peg or two. And he did. (Let me stress here that I am not a hooliganistic person by nature :-). The street was deserted, and he was not in danger of being jostled. Nor was he carrying his envelopes awkwardly, he didn't have a great deal to carry for that matter.

On another occasion I have witnessed a ritual designed to strike at the international communications network of a certain company who had caused extreme grief to one of the participants. Let's call the company "Quoters" [hint] - I don't want to be accused of spreading bad press about them because I don't have any personal stake in this myself. The same afternoon their new (very secure etc. etc.!) "speedy" stateside link broke down while they were demonstrating it to the press.

Lest I be seen as totally vandalistic :-) I have also been involved in rituals to aid people, where they have gone one to discover lost investment certificates, achieved major benefits in their chosen field etc. But it is **immediately** easier to wreck havoc on something rather than enhance it, as any programmer will know :-).

Now it seems to me that an event which falls totally into line with a desire which has had no material expression other than a mental one, is **most probably** caused by that desire - Occam's Razor. My

propositions above seem the most sensible quantisation of the mechanics involved.

Well, that's my pitch, and I'm sorry it has to be so long! I do hope that you will take the time to think about it, and I will look forward to your comments...er, then again, maybe not!! :-)

Baphomet